

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-08

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AMCONSUL IZMIR

C O N F I D E N T I A L ANKARA 0859

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: SHUM, TU  
SUBJECT: HUMAN RIGHTS REPORT ON TURKEY

REF: STATE 25967

1. EMBOFF CALLED ON MFA WESTERN DEPARTMENT DIRECTOR YEGEN  
FEBRUARY 1 AND PRESENTED HIM WITH COPY OF THE HUMAN RIGHTS  
REPORT ON TURKEY WHICH HAD BEEN TRASNMITTED TO CONGRESS JANUARY 31.  
IN PRESENTING THE DOCUMENT, EMBOFF TOOK POSITIVE APPROACH, ARGUING  
THAT THE CHANGES HAD LARGELY ANSWERED TURKISH CONCERNS AND OFFERED  
THE PERSONAL VIEW THAT THE CHANGES WERE MORE EXTENSIVE THAN HE  
HAD THOUGHT POSSIBLE. HE ALSO REVIEWED WITH YEGEN THE EARLIER  
EXCHANGE BETWEEN PRIMIN ECEVIT AND SECRETARY VANCE CONCERNING  
KURDS AND EMPHASIZED THAT THE REMAINING REFERENCES TO KURDS  
IN THE REPORT IN NO WAY AFFECTED THE ASSURANCES THE SECRETARY  
HAD GIVEN THE PRIMIN.

2. YEGEN, WHO HAD RECEIVED A COPY OF THE REPORT LESS THAN AN  
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HOOR EARLIER FROM THE TURKISH EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON, HAD BEEN  
ABLE TO REVIEW THE DOCUMENT AND PROVIDE SOME PRELIMINARY COMMENTS.  
HE SAID THAT HE HAD NOT YET BEEN ABLE TO TALK TO FONMIN OKCUN, BUT  
HE BELIEVED OKCUN WOULD AGREE WITH HIS, YEGEN'S, COMMENTS.  
FIRST, HE THANKED THE EMBASSY FOR ITS EFFORTS IN REPORTING TURKISH  
CONCERNS ABOUT THE REPORT. HE RECOGNIZED THAT IT HAD BEEN CHANGED  
SUBSTANTIALLY, BUT THERE WERE SEVERAL POINTS WHICH REMAINED

OBJECTIONABLE TO THE GOT. SPECIFICALLY, HE SAID THAT IN PARA 3, SUBPARAGRAPH A, THE PORTION BEGINNING WITH "CHARGES HAVE BEEN MADE" AND ENDING WITH "HOWEVER" IN THE THIRD SUCCEEDING SENTENCE SHOULD NOT HAVE BEEN LEFT IN THE REPORT. HE REPEATED THE ARGUMENT THE FONMIN HAD MADE JANUARY 30 SAYING THAT THESE CHARGES ARE UNSUBSTANTIATED AND THEREFORE SHOULD NOT BE INCLUDED IN AN OFFICIAL, PUBLIC DOCUMENT OF THE USG. HE ALSO SAID THAT THE REFERENCE TO KURDS, EVEN IN ITS MODIFIED FORM, WOULD BE HARMFUL TO US-TURKISH RELATIONS. HE REPEATED THE ARGUMENT THAT GOT DOES NOT CONSIDER THE KURDS A MINORITY, AND HE ASSERTED THAT THERE IS GREAT SOCIAL MOBILITY IN TURKEY FROM WHICH THE KURDS BENEFIT AS FREELY AS ANY OTHER GROUP OF TURKISH CITIZENS. THE FACT THAT THEIR STANDARD OF LIVING MIGHT ON THE AVERAGE BE SOMEWHAT LOWER IS DUE TO THE DIFFERING LEVELS OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IN DIFFERENT PARTS OF THE COUNTRY. THIS IS A PROBLEM THE GOT RECOGNIZES AND IS TRYING TO CORRECT.

3. CONCERNING THE LAST PARAGRAPH, THE ONLY REMAINING REFERENCE TO CYPRUS IN THE REPORT, YEGEN SAID THE FAILURE TO INDICATE THAT HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS OCCURRED AS EARLY AS 1963 GAVE THE MISLEADING IMPRESSION THAT THE HUMAN RIGHTS PROBLEMS IN CYPRUS BEGAN WITH THE TURKISH MILITARY INTERVENTION IN 1974. HE SAID THIS IS NOT CORRECT AND SHOULD HAVE BEEN BALANCED BY A STATEMENT INDICATING THAT TURKISH CYPRIOTS HAD SUFFERED VIOLATIONS OF THEIR HUMAN RIGHTS DURING THE 11-YEAR PERIOD PRECEDING THE INTERVENTION. YEGEN FURTHER INDICATED THAT AFTER

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THE MFA HAD HAD A CHANCE TO SEE AND STUDY THE REPORTS ON GREECE AND CYPRUS, IT WOULD BE IN A BETTER POSITION TO MAKE FURTHER COMMENTS. HE WONDERED, HOWEVER, IF IN EITHER OF THOSE REPORTS MENTION WAS MADE OF GREEK RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE CYPRUS CRISIS OF 1974 AND SAID IF IT WERE NOT, IT WOULD BE A SERIOUS SHORTCOMING.

4. FINALLY, SPEAKING IN GENERAL TERMS, YEGEN SAID TURKEY HAD MANAGED TO MAINTAIN A DEMOCRATIC FORM OF GOVERNMENT FOR 30 YEARS. HE POINTED OUT THAT THIS HAD BEEN DONE DURING A PERIOD WHEN THE NUMBER OF DEMOCRACIES IN THE WORLD HAD DECREASED SUBSTANTIALLY. HE BELIEVED THE US SHOULD REALIZE THAT PUBLIC ACTIONS

, SUCH AS THE PRESENTATION OF THESE REPORTS TO CONGRESS, WOULD BE PARTICULARLY DAMAGING TO ITS RELATIONS WITH DEMOCRATIC GOVERNMENTS WHICH BY THEIR NATURE WERE ESPECIALLY SENSITIVE TO PUBLIC OPINION--A PUBLIC OPINION WHICH WOULD CONSIDER SUCH REPORTS AT BEST PATRONIZING. HE SAID IT WAS HIS PERSONAL VIEW THAT FOR THE US TO TAKE UPON ITSELF THE RESPONSIBILITY OF JUDGING THE PERFORMANCE OF OTHER DEMOCRACIES WAS AN INTOLERABLE DISPLAY OF ARROGANCE.

5. COMMENT: WHILE GOT IS NOT COMPLETELY SATISFIED WITH MODIFICATIONS IN THE REPORT, WE BELIEVE THEY RECOGNIZE THAT IT HAS

BEEN IMPROVED SUBSTANTIALLY. WE WOULD LIKE TO EXPRESS OUR APPRECIATION TO THOSE IN THE DEPARTMENT WHO WORKED TO MAKE THESE LAST-MINUTE MODIFICATIONS. WE WOULD, OF COURSE, HAVE PREFERRED TO HAVE BEEN INVOLVED IN THE PROCESS EARLIER AND, PERHAPS IN THAT WAY, BEEN ABLE TO AVOID THIS LAST-MINUTE PANIC AND RESULTING STRAIN IN US-TURKISH RELATIONS; BUT RECOGNIZING THE LIMITATIONS OF TIME AND BUREAUCRACY, WE THINK THE FINAL RESULT IS AS GOOD AS CAN BE EXPECTED. WITH RESPECT TO YEGEN'S CONTINUING COMPLAINT ABOUT THE INCLUSION OF UNSUBSTANTIATED CHARGES, WE BELIEVE THAT GOT HAS A POINT. WHILE THE CHARGES MAY WELL BE TRUE, THEY HAVE NOT BEEN SUBSTANTIATED AND THE PLAINTIFFS ARE NOT DISINTERESTED PARTIES. OUR INCLUDING THE CHARGES IN THE REPORT GIVES THEM A CREDIBILITY THEY MIGHT NOT OTHERWISE HAVE OR DESERVE. CONCERNING THE CONTINUED SENSITIVITY OF THE TURKS ABOUT ANY REFERENCE TO THE KIRDIISH  
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MINORITY, WE ARE LESS INCLINED TO BE SYMPATHETIC. THERE SHOULD BE NO QUESTION, HOWEVER, ABOUT THE DEGREE OF THEIR SENSITIVITY. AT AN ANNUAL RECEPTION FOR THE DIPLOMATIC CORPS GIVEN BY PRESIDENT KORUTURK JANUARY 31, PRIMIN ECEVIT SOUGHT OUT THE AMBASSADOR TO EXPRESS HIS CONCERN ABOUT THE MENTION OF KURDS IN THE REPORT. THEREFORE, IF THERE IS NO SPECIFIC STATUTARY REQUIREMENT TO DISCUSS THE STATUS OF MINORITY GROUPS, WE SUGGEST THAT, BARRING SOME NEW EVIDENCE OF ILL TREATMENT, DEPARTMENT CONSIDER DROPPING REFERENCE TO KURDS IN NEXT YEAR'S REPORT. WITH RESPECT TO YEGEN'S VIEW THAT THE PARAGRAPH ON CYPRUS IS MISLEADING, WE AGREE. TURKS ARE PARTICULARLY SENSITIVE TO THE FACT THAT FOR 10 YEARS VIRTUALLY NO MAJOR INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION OR NATION SPOKE OUT IN DEFENSE OF TURKISH CYPRIOT RIGHTS. THEY FIND RECENT INTERNATIONAL OUTCRY ABOUT THE PLIGHT OF THE GREEK CYPRIOTS TO BE UNSEEMLY EVIDENCE OF THE ANTI-TURKISH BIAS OF THE WEST. IF WE ARE GOING TO BE ABLE TO RE-ESTABLISH A HEALTHY RELATIONSHIP WITH TURKEY, WE WILL NEED TO BE PARTICULARLY CAREFUL TO AVOID REINFORCING TURKISH SUSPICIONS THAT WE SHARE THIS PERCEIVED BIAS.  
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## Message Attributes

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